

Mar. 11 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

*Note: The President spoke at 11:40 a.m. in the East Room of the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Vice President Dan Quayle; Attorney General Dick Thornburgh; Everett Hatcher, slain Drug Enforcement*

*Administration agent; Mike Moore, Mississippi attorney general; Richard Ieyoub, Louisiana district attorney; and Dan Lungren, California attorney general.*

## Message to the Congress Transmitting Proposed Crime Control Legislation

March 11, 1991

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit this Administration's primary legislative initiative addressing the continuing threat of violent crime in this country. This proposal, entitled the "Comprehensive Violent Crime Control Act of 1991," contains a broad spectrum of critically needed reforms to the criminal justice system, as well as new offenses and penalties for various acts of life-threatening criminal behavior. Also transmitted is a section-by-section analysis. I urge that congressional action on this initiative be completed within the next 100 days.

The enormous danger posed by violent criminals in our midst today is totally unacceptable. In 1990, more than 20,000 Americans were murdered. Our citizens are rightly demanding that elected officials act with resolve to reduce substantially the threat violent crime poses to their families and communities. The dramatic victory achieved by our military forces in the Persian Gulf serves as a model for what can be accomplished by leaders and citizens committed to achieving a common goal. It is time for all Americans to work together to take back the streets and liberate our neighborhoods from the tyranny of fear.

This legislative package is designed to address comprehensively the failures of the current criminal justice system. There must be a clear understanding on the streets of America that anyone who threatens the lives of others will be held accountable. To this end, it is essential that we have swift and certain apprehension, prosecution, and incarceration. Too many times, in too many cases, criminals go free because the scales of justice are unfairly loaded against dedi-

cated law enforcement officials.

The core elements of my proposal are:

- *Restoration of the Federal Death Penalty* by establishing constitutionally sound procedures and adequate standards for imposing Federal death penalties that are already on the books (including mail bombing and murder of Federal officials); and authorizing the death penalty for drug kingpins and for certain heinous acts such as terrorist murders of American nationals abroad, killing of hostages, and murder for hire.
- *Habeas Corpus Reform* to stop the often frivolous and repetitive appeals that clog our criminal justice system, and in many cases effectively nullify State death penalties, by limiting the ability of Federal and State prisoners to file repetitive habeas corpus petitions.
- *Exclusionary Rule Reform* to limit the release of violent criminals due to legal technicalities by permitting the use of evidence that has been seized by Federal or State law enforcement officials acting in "good faith," or a firearm seized from dangerous criminals by a Federal law enforcement officer. This proposal also includes a system for punishing Federal officers who violate Fourth Amendment standards, as well as a means for compensating victims of unlawful searches.
- *Increased Firearms Offenses and Penalties* including a 10-year mandatory prison term for the use of a semiautomatic firearm in a drug trafficking offense or violent felony, a 5-year man-

datory sentence for possession of a firearm by dangerous felons, new offenses involving theft of firearms and smuggling firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking or violent crimes, and a general ban on gun clips and magazines that enable a firearm to fire more than 15 rounds without reloading.

In addition to these proposals, my initiative contains elements designed to curb ter-

rorism, racial injustice, sexual violence, and juvenile crime, and to support appropriate drug testing as a condition of post-conviction release for Federal prisoners.

I look forward to working with the Congress during the next 100 days on this necessary legislation.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,  
March 11, 1991.

## Remarks at the Point of Light Award Presentation Ceremony for the Henderson Hall/Barcroft Elementary School Adopt-A-School Program in Arlington, Virginia

*March 11, 1991*

Thank you, Dr. Kahan, and to everybody else—Ms. Treadwell and Colonel Buckley, Corporal Simms, and so many others. I'm just delighted to be here with you, with the students, all the students of Barcroft, and their marine buddies from Henderson Hall.

You know, this is, as Dr. Kahan said, a very special day because I am naming you and these efforts—the marines—the 400th daily Point of Light. That's something that this school and all of you can be very proud of. And since this event is so special, recognizing our 400th Point of Light, I want to tell you just for a minute what this recognition means.

Some of you know that on every single day of the year except Sunday, I name as a Point of Light a person or a group serving their community somewhere in America, volunteers helping other people. I call them our Points of Light because their caring deeds shine like beacons of hope.

You say, why do we honor them this way? Well, first of all, I name a Point of Light each day because I want to show the whole country that all of our problems have solutions. In fact, this country is full of solutions. You kids here just have to look around you to see that this is true—look at how the Henderson Hall marines became your "Tuesday Tutors" to help you in school. They've shown that caring is one of the

best solutions that there is.

Also, I name a Point of Light each day because I want to remind people that real success doesn't mean earning a lot of money or wearing expensive clothes. Real success means helping someone who needs you. We see that success right here. You kids here needed some friends. So 8 years ago, the Henderson Hall marines became your buddies, buddies both in and out of the classroom. Your special friends are real successes because they're volunteering their time to help you.

In addition, by naming Points of Light I want our whole country to know who our nation's heroes are. Today's heroes are our neighbors and family and friends, anyone who gives of themselves by teaching someone to read or by visiting a lonely senior citizen or by helping a lonely child. And by naming Points of Light, I want all Americans to discover the heroes that they can be. As President, I want to do everything that I can to call on each person in America to find a way to serve someone in need.

And so, that's why I came here today, to show the whole country this very special relationship between the marines and the students of Barcroft. And this relationship shows that there are all kinds of heroes. We all know that the front line for some marines was in the desert of the Middle East liberating Kuwait. Well, I'm here today to